

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ladislaus B. Dombrowski Board Room
John A. Hannah Building
608 West Allegan
Lansing, Michigan

April 8, 2014
9:30 a.m.

- Present: Mr. Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman
Mr. John C. Austin, President
Dr. Casandra E. Ulbrich, Vice President
Mr. Daniel Varner, Secretary
Dr. Richard Zeile, Treasurer
Ms. Michelle Fecteau, NASBE Delegate
Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus
Mrs. Eileen Weiser (via telephone)
- Absent: Mr. Craig Ruff, representing Governor Rick Snyder, ex officio
- Also Present: Mr. Gary Abud, Jr., 2013-2014 Michigan Teacher of the Year

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

II. INFORMATIONAL FOLDER ITEM

1. Information on Michigan Mathematics and Science Centers 2012-2013 Activities

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

Mr. Varner moved, seconded by Ms. Ramos-Montigny, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority.

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Austin, Fecteau, Ramos-Montigny, Ulbrich, Varner, Weiser
Absent: Straus, Zeile

The motion carried.

Mrs. Straus and Dr. Zeile joined the meeting at 9:32 a.m.

IV. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mrs. Marilyn Schneider, State Board Executive, introduced members of the State Board of Education and the Michigan Teacher of the Year.

V. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

Mr. Flanagan shared a photo of his visit to Center Line Public Schools.

Mr. Flanagan thanked Mrs. Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent, Administrative and Support Services. Mr. Flanagan said Mrs. Wolenberg is retiring on April 30, 2014. He said she has been Deputy Superintendent since 1995 and provided more than 30 years of service to the Michigan Department of Education.

VI. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 9:39 a.m. and convened the Committee of the Whole.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

VII. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

VIII. DISCUSSION ON MICHIGAN SCHOOL ORGANIZATION AND FINANCE

Ms. Audrey Spalding, Director of Education Policy, Mackinac Center for Public Policy; Ms. Amber Arellano, Executive Director, The Education Trust – Midwest; and Dr. Sarah Lenhoff, Director of Policy and Research, The Education Trust – Midwest; presented Discussion on Michigan School Organization and Finance.

Mr. Austin said the State Board of Education continues to host presentations from experts of varying perspectives regarding school organization and finance. He said the series of presentations will culminate in Board analysis and recommendations.

Mr. Austin introduced the presenters.

Ms. Spalding shared information via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Discussion followed.

Ms. Arellano and Dr. Lenhoff shared information via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Discussion followed.

IX. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole to reconvene the Regular Meeting at 12:03 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

X. CONSIDER GOING INTO CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Dr. Zeile, that the State Board of Education meet in closed session under §8(h) of the Open Meetings Act to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute under §13(1)(g) of the FOIA, specifically information or records subject to the attorney-client privilege.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

**Austin – Aye
Fecteau – Aye
Ramos-Montigny – Aye
Straus – Aye
Ulbrich – Aye
Varner – Aye
Weiser – Aye
Zeile – Aye**

The motion carried unanimously.

XI. RECESS

The Board recessed at 12:04 p.m. at which time the Board met in closed session until 1:06 p.m. The Board reconvened in open session at 1:13 p.m.

Mrs. Weiser left the meeting at 1:06 p.m.

XII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Dr. Mary Belknap, Jackson, Michigan. Dr. Belknap, representing Jackson College, shared verbal comments and written information. Dr. Belknap and a team of presenters shared information on the Pen Pals program in McCulloch Academy in Jackson.

XIII. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

At the request of Mr. Flanagan, new employees were introduced.

Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services, introduced LeWanna Shelton and Steven Curry, State School Reform Office; and Sean Hennika, Field Services.

Ms. Susan Broman, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Great Start, introduced Tiffany Aldrich, Child Development and Care; and Teshia Johnson, Early Childhood Education and Family Services.

Mr. Martin Ackley, Director, Public and Governmental Affairs, introduced Ben Williams who will become the Department's Legislative Liaison on April 14, 2014.

XIV. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 1:35 p.m. to reconvene the Committee of the Whole.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

XV. PRESENTATION ON FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE TEAM

Mrs. Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent, Administrative and Support Services; Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services; and Ms. Wendy Larvick, Assistant Director, Public and Governmental Affairs; presented on the Financial Independence Team.

Mrs. Wolenberg said the Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2015 recommendation includes funding for a cross-agency Financial Independence Team to develop and implement an early warning system to identify troubled school districts needing assistance. She said if legislation is enacted, the Michigan Departments of Education and Treasury will work collaboratively through an early warning indicator system to provide assistance for a financial preplan and an education plan. Staff explained the work of the proposed Financial Independence Team.

Board member discussion included clarification of assistance for troubled school districts, local boards maintaining control in decision making, ensuring that education plans are approved by the State Superintendent rather than another state department, the link between financial and academic health, the need to address underlying structural issues, and Board presentations to address school organization and finance.

XVI. DISCUSSION REGARDING CRITERIA FOR GRANT PROGRAM

There were no Board member comments regarding criteria for grant program.

XVII. PRESENTATION ON THE COLLEGE FOR CREATIVE STUDIES AS AN EDUCATOR PREPARATION INSTITUTION WITH PROBATIONARY APPROVAL

Dr. Joseph Martineau, Deputy Superintendent, Accountability Services; and Ms. Leah Breen, Assistant Director, Professional Preparation Services; presented on the College for Creative Studies as an Educator Preparation Institution with Probationary Approval.

Mr. Flanagan said the State Board of Education appointed a Committee of Scholars in September 2007 to review an application from the College for Creative Studies for probationary approval as an educator preparation institution. He said the College is being recommended for approval and staff will provide further details during the presentation.

Ms. Breen introduced representatives from the College for Creative Studies who were in attendance.

Information was shared via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Board member discussion included testimonies of the college's worldwide reputation for excellence, length of process to obtain approval, and ensuring educator preparation institutions are rigorous in order to educate excellent teachers.

Board approval will be requested at the May meeting.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole and reconvened at the Regular Meeting 2:23 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

XIX. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

- E. Approval of Minutes of Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 13, 2014

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Dr. Ulbrich, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 13, 2014.

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Austin, Fecteau, Ramos-Montigny, Straus, Ulbrich, Varner, Zeile
Absent: Weiser

The motion carried.

XX. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Austin said stakeholders will be invited to share their perspectives on school organization and finance including the root causes and changes that need to be made. He said following stakeholder presentations, the Board will develop analysis and recommendations.

Mr. Austin said Mrs. Wolenberg has been a steady source of leadership, integrity and competence, and he congratulated her on her retirement from the Michigan Department of Education.

XXI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Report

F. Human Resources Report

Grants

G. Report on Grant Awards

1. 2011-2012 ARRA Title I School Improvement Grant – Amendment
2. 2011-2012 ARRA Title I School Improvement Grant (2) – Amendment
3. 2013-2014 Regional Assistance to High Priority Schools – Amendment
4. 2013-2014 Section 22.i: Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant – Initial
5. 2013-2014 Title I, Part A – Improving Basic Programs – Amendment
6. 2013-2014 Title II, Part A – Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting – Amendment
7. 2012-2013 Application for School Bus Driver Safety Education Program – Amendment
8. 2013-2014 Promoting Adolescent Health in MI Through School-Based HIV/STD Prevention and School-Based Surveillance – Initial
9. 2013-2014 Safe Schools/Healthy Students State Planning, Local Educ. Agencies, & Local Communities – Initial

Mr. Flanagan shared highlights of his official activities during the past month. He said he celebrated April as Month of the Young Child, and he showed thank you letters from students who watched the podcast of him reading a book to students during March is Reading Month. He clarified the results of recent student achievement studies and thanked teachers for the progress that they are making in raising student achievement rates.

Mrs. Straus said the Michigan League for Public Policy has issued its annual Kids Count Report showing a growing gap between African American and white students. She said the League should be made aware of the Michigan Department of Education's efforts to close the achievement gap.

Mrs. Straus asked what happened to the School Improvement Grant funds that were awarded to Albion Public Schools after the students transferred to Marshall Public Schools. Dr. Keesler said the funds followed the students. Discussion followed regarding the collaborative agreement allowing Albion Public Schools to discontinue teaching high school and bus students to Marshall Public Schools.

XXII. REPORT OF MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. Gary Abud, Jr., 2013-2014 Michigan Teacher of the Year, used Prezi to share information highlighting his activities during the past month.

XXIII. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Martin Ackley, Director, Public and Governmental Affairs; and Ms. Wendy Larvick, Assistant Director, Public and Governmental Affairs; presented the State and Federal Legislative Update.

Mr. Ackley provided an update on House Bill 4369, regarding the state school reform/redesign district, which has passed the House and is in the Senate awaiting action.

Dr. Ulbrich, Chair of the Board's Legislative Committee, said the Committee met on April 2 and discussed school turnaround legislation. She said the Committee discussed resending the Policy on School Turnaround District and Strategy which was adopted by the Board on January 14, 2014. She said there was also discussion regarding quality measures, but no specific language is being recommended to the full Board.

Ms. Larvick distributed information on quality standards from Florida, Maryland and Massachusetts.

Mr. Austin said he is proposing that the Board not support the legislation as currently written, because it is not consistent with the Board's policy as previously adopted. He said there needs to be a range of entities eligible to receive schools designated by the State School Reform Officer and they should have a good record of performance in helping underachieving schools succeed or a strong likelihood of that ability. He said the Board and Department should be called upon to set quality control criteria for eligible entities.

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Ms. Ramos-Montigny, that the State Board of Education opposes House Bill 4369 as currently written, and recommends that a range of entities be eligible to manage school turnaround, and that the State Board of Education and Michigan Department of Education determine quality control criteria for eligible entities.

Mr. Varner said there are two separate issues. He said one is the codification of the Education Achievement Authority and the second is determining who should be allowed to engage in school turnaround efforts. He said it may be easier to regulate an entity once it is codified. He said rather than address two issues, the Board should focus on who gets to do the work.

Dr. Ulbrich proposed a friendly amendment, supported by Dr. Zeile that the State Board of Education opposes House Bill 4369, because it does not incorporate elements as previously recommended for effective school turnaround in the State Board of Education Policy on School Turnaround District and Strategy, as adopted on January 14, 2014.

There was Board consensus to accept the friendly amendment.

Discussion followed.

The vote was taken on the motion proposed in the friendly amendment.

Ayes: Austin, Fecteau, Ramos-Montigny, Straus, Ulbrich, Varner, Zeile

Absent: Weiser

The motion carried.

XXIV. CONSENT AGENDA

- I. Approval of Nominations to the Special Education Advisory Committee
- J. Approval of Criteria for Section 31b Year-Round Schools Grant \$2,000,000
- K. Adoption of Resolution Honoring Carol Wolenberg

Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mr. Varner, that the State Board of Education approve the consent agenda as follows:

- I. approve eleven organizational delegates, seven organizational alternates and four at-large nominations for the terms specified in Attachment B of the Superintendent's memorandum dated March 25, 2014;**
- J. approve the Criteria for Section 31b – Year-Round Schools Grant, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated March 25, 2014; and**
- K. adopt the resolution honoring Carol Wolenberg, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated March 25, 2014.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Austin, Fecteau, Ramos-Montigny, Straus, Ulbrich, Varner, Zeile

Absent: Weiser

The motion carried.

The Resolution Honoring Carol Wolenberg is attached as Exhibit A.

XXV. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

On behalf of Board members and staff, Ms. Ramos-Montigny presented Mr. Abud with a gift for his newborn daughter.

Mr. Austin presented Mrs. Wolenberg with the State Board of Education resolution honoring her service to the Michigan Department of Education.

XXVI. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Flanagan said Board members may contact a member of the Agenda Planning Committee comprised of Mr. Austin, Dr. Ulbrich and Mr. Varner with suggestions for agenda topics.

XXVII. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday, May 13, 2014 (9:30 a.m.)
- B. Tuesday, June 3, 2014 (9:30 a.m.) SBE Retreat
- C. Tuesday, June 17, 2014 (9:30 a.m.)

XXVIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

The video archive of the meeting is available at www.michigan.gov/sbe.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Varner
Secretary

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

RESOLUTION

CAROL WOLENBERG

LET IT BE KNOWN, Carol Wolenberg has served Michigan students and educators as Deputy Superintendent/Chief Financial Officer of the Michigan Department of Education since 1995; and

WHEREAS, Carol earned her Bachelor of Science and a Master's Degrees in Business Education from Central Michigan University; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of a distinguished career of service to the improvement of academic outcomes for all students and educators, Carol has been an instructor at the community college, adult education and high school levels, and has worked in the business community; and

WHEREAS, Carol has always been a reliable, hardworking and caring individual who has fulfilled a variety of responsibilities with the Michigan Department of Education. From Chief Financial Officer to Emergency Management Coordinator to working on oversight and accountability with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to working with intermediate school districts and deficit districts on a daily basis, Carol has shown a commitment to effectiveness that goes unmatched; and

WHEREAS, Her knowledge, leadership and guidance have truly made a difference for the future of employees at the Michigan Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, Carol wishes to spend more time with her husband, John; children and especially her two grandsons, Henrik and Anson; and

WHEREAS, Carol has announced her departure from the Michigan Department of Education effective on April 30, 2014; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education receives with deep regret the news of departure of this honored and distinguished employee; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education thanks Carol for her contributions and years of dedicated service; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education wishes Carol Wolenberg a future full of laughter, happiness and good health with family and friends.